AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (**Currently amended**) A laminate for sealing an electrolyte or protecting an electrode of a battery, comprising

a metal layer,

an inert protective layer formed over the surface of the metal layer in contact with said metal layer, wherein the inert protective layer is a reaction product of a chemical reaction of the metal layer surface with an acid, and

a layer of an adhesive resin comprised of a polyolefin modified by carboxyl group or a derivative thereof, formed over the inert protective layer and fusedly bonded with heat thereto, wherein said polyolefin to be modified by carboxyl group being a homopolymer of ethylene or propylene or a copolymer of ethylene or propylene with an α-olefin having two or more carbon atoms or with an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid or a derivative thereof.

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The laminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal layer is comprised of one or more metals selected from the group consisting of aluminum, nickel, copper, iron and alloys thereof.

6-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The laminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the adhesive resin is a graft-modified polyolefin resin obtained by graft-copolymerizing a polyolefin resin with an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid.

9. (Previously Presented) The laminate as claimed in claim 8, wherein the graft-modified polyolefin resin is a graft-modified polyethylene resin or a graft-modified polypropylene resin.

10-13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) A seal film for sealing an electrolyte of a battery or a protective film for protecting an electrode of a battery, which film is made from the laminate as claimed in claim 1.

15. (Canceled)

16. (Previously Presented) A seal film for sealing an electrolyte of a secondary battery or a protective film for protecting an electrode of a secondary battery, which film is made from the laminate as claimed in claim 1.

17-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously presented) The laminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein said inert protective film is formed by an acid treatment of said metal layer.

26. (Previously Presented) The laminate as claimed in claim 25, wherein said acid is selected from the group consisting of chromic acid, phosphoric acid, and mixtures thereof.

27-29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently amended) The laminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the adhesive resin has an adhesive strength of 5.8 N/15 mm up to an adhesive strength rendering a film unpeelable when said film is formed of the adhesive resin in direct contact with the inert protective ~~or passive~~ layer formed by acid treatment of an aluminum layer.

31. (**Currently amended**) The laminate as claimed in claim 1, wherein the adhesive resin layer is in contact with the inert protective ~~or passive~~ layer, or the adhesive resin layer is in contact with a primer coating layer and the primer coating layer is in contact with the inert protective ~~or passive~~ layer.

32. (**New**) A laminate for sealing an electrolyte or protecting an electrode of a battery, comprising

a metal layer,

an inert protective layer formed over the surface of the metal layer in contact with said metal layer, wherein the inert protective layer is a reaction product of a chemical reaction of the metal layer surface with an acid, and

a layer of an adhesive resin comprised of a polyolefin modified by carboxyl group or a derivative thereof, formed over the inert protective layer and fusedly bonded with heat thereto, wherein the polyolefin modified by carboxyl group or derivative thereof has been prepared by modifying a polyolefin which is a homopolymer of ethylene or propylene or a copolymer of ethylene or propylene with an α-olefin having two or more carbon atoms or with an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid.